

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC  
COMMENT PERIOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY STUDY**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Victoria Library located at 1417 7th Street, Victoria, VA 23974. A second set of public meetings will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Brunswick County Library located at 133 W. Hicks Street, Lawrenceville, VA 23868. ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for portions of the Meherrin River and its tributaries within Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, and Brunswick counties. This notice also announces the first public meetings and a public comment opportunity.

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** Overview of the water quality impairments of the recreation/swimming use of portions of the Meherrin River and its tributaries which are impaired due to bacterial violations and a summary of the research to date.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination for portions of the Meherrin River and its tributaries. This impairment spans approximately 69.89 miles across Lunenburg and Brunswick counties. The watershed which drains these waterways extends into both Mecklenburg and Charlotte counties. Portions of this river and its tributaries are impaired for failure to meet the recreational (swimming) designated use because of bacterial water quality standard violations.

Waterbody	County	Impairment Length (mi)	Impairment
Briery Branch	Brunswick	3.97	<b>Recreational / Swimming Use due to Bacteria</b>
Genito Creek	Brunswick	7.89	
Great Creek (Main stem of creek – Excluding the Great Creek Reservoir)	Brunswick	24.34	
Meherrin River (Taylors Creek to Reedy Creek)	Brunswick	26.14	
North Meherrin River (from confluence with Couches Creek to Reedy Creek)	Lunenburg	7.55	
Total Impairment Length		69.89	

The study reports the current status of the River and its tributaries via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the above impairments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on Friday, September 25, 2009. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

**CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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